

REMARKS

Claims 61, 68, and 81-84, 87-90, and 100-101 are pending. Claims 61 and 68 are allowed per the Office Action mailed August 28, 2006. Claims 81, 83, 87, 89, and 100 are amended. Claims 1-60, 62-67, 69-80, 85-86, and 91-99 are cancelled without prejudice. Cancellation of the claims is without waiver of Applicants' right to pursue the cancelled subject matter of these claims in one or more continuation or divisional applications. No new matter is added as a result of the amendments.

Support for amended claims 81, 83, 87, 89, and 100 can be found throughout the original application as filed. Support for the recitation "the portion of SEQ ID NO:1 from nucleotide 32,642 to nucleotide 36,846" can be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed, and specifically on page 5, lines 11-13; page 7, lines 1-2; page 27, lines 20-23; and in Figure 1. The nucleotide range recited corresponds to the range covered by oligonucleotide primers 18F and 23R, the sequences of which are disclosed on page 27 and the location of which is shown in Figure 1.

Further to the in-person interview with Director Elliot, Examiner Shukla, and Examiner Myers, and the telephonic interview with Examiner Myers, Applicants amend the claims herein to conform with the language that Examiner Myers stated would be supported by the provisional application to which the instant application claims benefit. In particular, all the claims now recite isolated oligonucleotides of at least 16 contiguous nucleotides of the portion of SEQ ID NO: 1 from nucleotide 32,642 to nucleotide 36,846, which correspond to the 5' and 3' most nucleotides of the region delineated by the primers 18F and 23R. These primers are also

disclosed in the provisional application at least at page 4, lines 3-4; page 5, lines 8-9 and 22-23; page 9, lines 12-15; and in Figure 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as pending after entry of this Supplemental Amendment are all supported by the provisional application as has been acknowledged by Examiner Myers. In addition, entry of these amendments and benefit of priority obviate the grounds of rejection based on any documents published after the filing date of Applicants' provisional application. In view of the amendments made herein and the evidence and arguments provided in the Amendment and Response dated February 28, 2007, Applicants submit that they have addressed all of the rejections in the Office Action dated August 28, 2006.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-3732, Order No. 13572.105039.


In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby

authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 50-3732, Order No. 13572.105039.

Respectfully submitted,
KING & SPALDING LLP

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By:


Kenneth H. Sonnenfeld/ Margaret B. Brivanlou
Reg. No. 33,285/ Reg. No. 40,922
(212) 556-2100 Telephone
(212) 556-2222 Facsimile

Correspondence Address:
KING & SPALDING LLP
1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036